

University College
FALMOUTH



funding for postgraduate students

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funding a postgraduate course at Falmouth

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A year of full time postgraduate study is likely to cost in the region of £10,000, so you will need to do some planning in order to get through the course without the distraction of financial problems.

Apply early to the College if you can, and if successful at interview, accept your place as soon as possible in the year before you wish to begin studying a postgraduate course. This will give you more time to arrange your finances and to apply for major sources of funding whose competitions have an early deadline, such as the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Remember that you can expect a significant return on your investment, in terms of your career, skills, knowledge and personal development. At Falmouth you can expect first class facilities, professional staff and high quality student support.

For advice and information on all aspects of postgraduate funding, please contact:

Dr Robin Kirby, Bursary Advisor

Tel: 01326 213 744

Email: robin.kirby@falmouth.ac.uk

key sources of funding



The two major sources of funding for your postgraduate course are Career Development Loans and the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Career Development Loans - introductory notes

Generally aimed at postgraduate students, Career Development Loans (CDLs) are a scheme designed to help people who want to improve their career prospects, but lack the funds to invest in a suitable vocational programme. For further details, please call the free phone information number: 0800 585 505 or visit: www.direct.gov.uk/cdl

- A CDL is a bank loan designed to help you pay for work-related learning. You don't have to start paying your loan back until at least one month after you stop training.
- You can take out a CDL whether you are employed, self-employed or unemployed.
- CDLs are available through an arrangement between the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and three high street banks.
- Remember that CDL is a personal loan between you and the bank, and you are responsible for repaying it to the bank. Before taking out a loan, check how much your monthly repayments will be, and that you feel confident that you will be able to make them.

There are three areas that a CDL can cover:

- course fees (up to 80% of course fees)
- other course costs
- living expenses.

Your loan can cover one or more of these elements, but cannot exceed £8,000 in total. CDLs will only support the vocational or learning elements of a course.

Advice on applying for a Career Development Loan

- Apply for your loan well in advance – students applying late for a CDL don't always get it, and thus their place on the course which they've already started is jeopardised. Also, after three weeks of enrolment postgraduates are liable for 50% of the annual tuition fee.
- Barclays and the Royal Bank of Scotland take applications up to three months before your course starts.
- Banks have the right to refuse applications. It's best not to start a course under the assumption that you will be given approval for the loan by a bank.
- If you think your credit history may be a problem, it's a good idea to contact the bank before you complete the application form.
- The bank cannot release any funds until your learning provider has confirmed you have started the course. Your bank pays your course fees direct to your learning provider. Money for other expenses is paid directly into your bank account.

As an alternative to a Career Development Loan, you may want to consider a similar loan from Sallie Mae UK. These loans offer longer repayment periods, lower rates of interest if you can supply a qualifying creditworthy loan guarantor, and an initial 9 month repayment 'holiday' after completing your course before you start making the repayments.

For more information please contact:

Tel: 0845 058 5950
Fax: 0845 058 5780
Web: www.salliemae.co.uk



The Arts and Humanities Research Council

AHRC award winners studying on full time courses currently receive the value of their tuition fees (up to a set limit) and at least £8,000 paid quarterly for living costs. These awards are based on a competition, decided by a lengthy application process, references from past tutors or professionals with whom you have worked, and the course leader for your chosen course at Falmouth. About 1 in 4 applications to the AHRC are successful, if the application is completed properly.

Advice on applying to the AHRC:

- You must have accepted the offer of a place on a course and paid the acceptance fee before applying to the AHRC.
- The deadline for the receipt of applications by the AHRC is 1 May 2008. You will need to have completed your application at least a month before this date to allow time for collecting references and for the College to process your application form.
- If you are seriously considering making an application to the AHRC, make your application to study at Falmouth in November, December or January in the year prior to the start of your course. This will ensure that you have plenty of time to attend an interview, accept the place on the course, familiarise yourself with the lengthy AHRC application form, complete the form, organise your two referees, and submit the form to Falmouth at least a month before the AHRC's deadline.
- Remember to read and use the lengthy guidance notes and stick firmly to them, as the AHRC are very strict about rejecting applications which don't follow all their guidelines to the letter. It's not just about your degree results; a high quality application form following all their rules counts for a lot as well.

For further details and to check eligibility, please contact:

Tel: 0117 987 6500

Web: www.ahrc.ac.uk



advice on applying for scholarships and bursaries

Scholarships and bursaries available to University College Falmouth postgraduates

A number of bursaries and scholarships are available to postgraduate students at University College Falmouth. For example, students on our art and design courses can apply for a travel bursary from The Fenton Arts Trust to assist with the cost of study trips and visits to exhibitions and galleries. Several local companies and trusts also offer scholarships, which usually involve completing an application form or undertaking a short project. For the latest list of bursaries and scholarships, please check the website or contact the Bursary Office:

Tel: 01326 213 744

Email: bursaries@falmouth.ac.uk

Web: www.falmouth.ac.uk/bursaries

Check the criteria

Make sure you meet the criteria of the charitable trust or funding body to which you are applying. Most trusts have specific rules about what they will and won't fund and you need to be sure that you are eligible before spending time on an application. You will usually receive guidance notes with the application form.

Check the format

Check that you are using the correct application format. Some trusts have a specific application form while some require a letter. Treat each application separately and make sure that you tailor your application each time; don't just use one statement to send to different sources of funding.

Stand out

Make sure that you explain your particular circumstances, if you are likely to be competing with other students who are short of money. For example, you may have family responsibilities which make it harder to provide your own funding.

Budget

If the application form asks you to provide a budget, e.g. for a study trip, include a comprehensive set of costs to show that you have properly considered and planned the proposed trip.

Be realistic

Charitable trusts and funding bodies for postgraduates are likely to assist you with bursaries of hundreds, rather than thousands of pounds, so consider the amount you ask for.

Be patient.

Many charitable trusts only meet a few times a year, so plan to apply well before you need the money.

Say thanks

If you do receive any funding, remember to write to say thanks (either directly or via the College's Bursary Advisor), and give a brief record of how you spent the money and how it helped with your study.



funding resources



Useful websites

For all postgraduate students:

www.studentmoney.org

funding search tool and budget planner

For Broadcast Journalism students:

<http://www.bjtc.org.uk/sponsorship.aspx>

the Broadcast Journalism Training Council's advice on and list of sponsorship schemes.

Educational Grants Advisory Services (EGAS)

EGAS is primarily concerned with helping those students who are ineligible for statutory funding. They hold a database containing details of funds available from various Charities, Trust and Bursary Schemes. Foundation, Undergraduate and Postgraduate students can use the service they provide.

Applicants must send a letter requesting a free funding search application form and include an SAE. When EGAS receive the completed application form and SAE, they will search the database for details of any funding the applicant may be eligible to receive. The results will be forwarded to the applicant.

An application form for this free search can be obtained from the EGAS website: www.egas-online.org.uk or by writing to: Educational Grants Advisory Services (EGAS), 501-505 Kingsland Road, Dalston, London E8 4AU

FunderFinder

FunderFinder is a database application available in the Careers Service at University College Falmouth. Enquirers are asked a variety of questions relating to their study course, personal and financial circumstances and family history. The database then searches for likely sources of funding suitable for the enquirers circumstances. FunderFinder can be accessed from a dedicated computer at the Careers Service at Tremough and in the Woodlane Library.

Other Publications

Postgraduate applicants are advised to contact their local library for copies of:

The Directory Of Grant Making Trusts
Published by the Charities Aid Foundation, this directory enables grant seekers to search for trusts that might aid them in funding study.

The Grants Register

Provides information on the availability of, and eligibility for, postgraduate and professional funding. Each entry gives details of subject area, eligibility, purpose, numbers offered, frequency, value, length of study, establishments and application procedures. Full contact details appear with each awarding organisation or individual award.

The Education Grants Directory

This title provides information on almost 1,400 sources of financial help for students in need. Its listing section includes national and general sources of funds, local sources, statutory funds and student grants, company sponsorship, career development loans and LEA funding. There is also guidance on selecting the right source of funds for your needs, and advice on how to make an application.

Prospects Postgraduate Funding Guide:
The Essential Guide to Funding Further Study
(Paperback) ISBN: 1840161299

University College
FALMOUTH



University College Falmouth

Woodlane
Falmouth
Cornwall
TR11 4RH
UK

Tel. +44 (0)1326 211077

Fax. +44 (0)1326 213880

Minicom. +44 (0)1326 214926

Email.

bursaries@falmouth.ac.uk
admissions@falmouth.ac.uk

Web. www.falmouth.ac.uk



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